



## NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact Betty VanDeventer 402.471.4537 or [betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov](mailto:betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov)

Dec. 6, 2013

**EDITORS' NOTE: Photos of the four finalists attached.**

# FOUR FINALISTS NAMED IN SEARCH FOR STATE EDUCATION COMMISSIONER

The Nebraska State Board of Education announced today the names of four finalists for the position of Commissioner of Education.

The finalists are:

- Matthew Blomstedt of Central City. Blomstedt currently is executive director of the Nebraska Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council. He received a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Higher Education from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln; a Master of Community and Regional Planning from UN-L; and, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UN-L.
- Virginia Moon of Omaha. Moon most recently served as interim superintendent of Omaha Public Schools. She received an Educational Doctorate in Educational Administration from Kansas State University; a Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University; and, a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Norman Ridder of Springfield, Missouri. Ridder currently is superintendent of Springfield R-12 Public Schools. Ridder received an Educational Doctorate in Administration, Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; a Master of Education in Secondary Education at UN-L; and, a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Theology at St. Thomas College in Denver, Colorado.
- Michael Sentance of Concord, Massachusetts. Sentance most recently was president of Education Reform Strategies for a UK-based international consultancy, Tribal Group, USA. He received a Master of Laws from Boston University School of Law; a Juris Doctor from Duquesne University School of Law; and, a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from Georgetown University.

The State Board of Education will interview the four finalists Wed., Dec. 11, at the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13<sup>th</sup> St., in Lincoln, beginning at 9 a.m.

Additional information about the finalists is available at: <http://www.education.ne.gov/>.

The State Board of Education will tentatively name the next Commissioner of Education on Wed. or Thurs., Dec. 11 or 12 at a special meeting.

The successful candidate will replace former Nebraska Commissioner of Education Roger Breed who retired July 1.